

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 324

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to commend Ron Littlefield for his honorable and astute service to the people of Chattanooga as their Mayor.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Ron Littlefield is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; after serving with distinction as the Mayor of Chattanooga for the past eight years, he is leaving office in April 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Littlefield brought with him to the Mayor's office many years of experience in city government and urban planning, and he has been instrumental in attracting thousands of new jobs to the region in the past four years; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, Chattanooga has experienced a manufacturing rebirth with the location of Volkswagen's North American Manufacturing facility at the Enterprise South Industrial Park; Volkswagen's \$1 billion investment in the community will result in 2000 direct jobs and another 9500 indirect jobs; Alstom Power is also investing over \$300 million in a new facility and will be employing over 300 people; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Littlefield's dedication to Chattanooga's neighborhoods has resulted in more sidewalk construction than during any previous administration; coupled with his dedication to neighborhoods and support of increased involvement from community leaders, Chattanooga has seen a resurgence of neighborhood pride and neighbors coming together to fight blight and crime; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, approximately 198 miles of roads have been repaved, replaced, and improved in Chattanooga under his watch; Mayor Littlefield's creative use of scarce resources, along with a lifetime of working with state and federal officials, has helped improve

the city's infrastructure and has positioned Chattanooga as a potential recipient of funding which will allow the continuation of this much needed work; and

WHEREAS, as a community planner in the 1970's, Ron Littlefield was instrumental in establishing the Brainerd Levee as the City's first Greenway, and as Mayor, he has extended and improved the City's Greenway system; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Mayor Littlefield, Warner Park has undergone a dramatic transformation which has been a key component in reestablishing Chattanooga as a softball tournament destination, combined with the new Summit of Softball; Chattanooga can once again host regional and national events which will have an estimated economic impact of \$25 million within the next five years for the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mayor Littlefield joined 235 other communities when he signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; in 2007, Mayor Littlefield appointed the Chattanooga Green Committee to advise and assist in moving Chattanooga toward the long-sought goal of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Littlefield has been and continues to be committed to completing the transformation of Chattanooga; from urban renewal to planned growth in the region, he has led with experience and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary tenure as Mayor, Ron Littlefield has served in several other capacities within city and county government, including as a member and Chair of the Chattanooga City Council, Chattanooga's elected Commissioner of Public Works, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Chattanooga, and Director of Current Planning and Operations for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Littlefield has worked with many planning, research, and urban-development projects, including the Atlanta-Chattanooga MagLev High Speed Rail Initiative, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Business Development Center, and Hamilton County Riverport and Industrial Park, and has served as Executive Director of Chattanooga Venture, General Manager of the Chattanooga Area Economic Development Council, Incorporator and Charter Member of the Board of Directors for the Chattanooga Museum of Regional History, and Incorporator of Southeast Tennessee Local Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to holding several professional certifications and memberships, Mayor Littlefield has provided expertise and leadership as Chairman of the Chattanooga Metropolitan Planning Organization and a member of Governor's Solid Waste Task Force; and

WHEREAS, in private life, Mayor Littlefield and his wife, Lanis, have been married over 40 years and have two grown sons; for more than 30 years, the Littlefields have lived in the same home in the Glendon Place neighborhood in Brainerd; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Mrs. Littlefield are active members of Calvary Chapel where they have participated in the recent building program for the church and lead a group Bible study; and

WHEREAS, Ron Littlefield is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized on the special occasion of his retirement as the Mayor of Chattanooga; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Ron Littlefield for his honorable and astute service to the people of Chattanooga as their Mayor, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.